

Ashby Conservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting of May 17, 2017

The meeting was opened at 7:33pm with Tim Bauman, Bob Leary, Roberta Flashman and Cathy Kristofferson in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2017 were reviewed and accepted unanimously with one small correction.

Treasurer's Report: \$262.50 received for the NOI submitted for 70 Beaver Dam Rd.

Correspondence:

5-5-2017	Email from Neil Gorman, Ross Associates, including a PDF of an NOI and Sewage Disposal System Design for 70 Beaver Dam Road. John Forest is the owner of the property. Hard copy of the NOI and plan will be delivered to the Town Hall mailbox for the Commission.
5-11-2017	Judy Schmitz, MassDEP Wetland Circuit Rider sent an email notice of the area's drought status returning to normal. As a result, "photos taken on or after May 1 st , 2017 can be used for documentation for perennial/intermittent stream determinations."
5-12-2017	Environmental Monitoring Report Week 35 for Cassiopeia Solar Farm 0 & 1128 Main Street
5-12-2017	Linda Parmenter, Administrative and HR Director, MRPC, sent an offer of surplus file cabinets to its member communities. The Chair requested one five drawer with lock (no key). He will try to pick it up on Thursday.

Old Business:

A negative Determination of Applicability was issued for Allen Road, Lot 2. Ken Chaplin is the applicant and Tim Beauchemin was the engineer on the project.

Chair spoke with the Ashby Fire Chief about a proposed project at Willard Brook State Park. The Park Ranger at Willard Brook SP and the Fire Department (Mike Bussell) are looking for better access to a Fire pond on Hosmer Road. Potentially this may require moving a fence. They would like the Conservation Commission to view the site to see if they have to file anything to proceed with the project.

The Order Of Conditions for 10 Davis Road was issued tonight. Hand delivered to John Lahti, who attended the meeting.

New Business:

Alan Carpenito appeared before the Commission to ask for a signature on his building permit for his property on Jones Hill Rd, Map 3, Lot 5.1, 5.2 and 9.1 – the prior Dermody property. Tim signed the building permit as there was an issued Certificate of Compliance on the OOC –DEP# 93-248.

Cathy wrote a letter in response to the proposed changes to the NHESP designations in Ashby that would remove almost all protection from the town. All members read and approved the letter and commented that it was very complete and well phrased.

Hearings:

8:00 PM; NOI and Sewage Disposal System Design for 70 Beaver Dam Road. John Forest is the property owner. Ross Associates have provided the engineering for the project. Continued at 8:45 to June 7th, 8:00pm.

Hearings Scheduled:

6/7/2017 8:00 PM; NOI and Sewage Disposal System Design for 70 Beaver Dam Road. John Forest is the property owner. Ross Associates have provided the engineering for the project.

Site Visits:

5-16-2017, 8:30 AM, 70 Beaver Dam Road. Full Commission and Neil Gorman met onsite to view the existing camp and review the plans for demolition and construction of a new, 1 bedroom full season home and accompanying septic system. The proposal is for a 2 story home with attached deck overlooking the pond. The plan also included the removal of 5-7 large trees located on the steep slope. 2 of these trees are dead. The entire project is within the 100 ft. buffer to the pond. Since the property's buildings predate the 1997 Rivers Protection Act, there is no 200 ft protective buffer zone.

Several parts of the new construction are within the 50 ft buffer zone, notably 2 rows of cement barriers and the soils that they will hold back for the construction of the leaching field. There will be an impermeable barrier placed behind these barriers to prevent waters from the system leaking out the side and entering the pond. The cement barriers will be put in place before exaction of the soils and old logs that underlie the area, as well as the old septic system (cesspool). The excavated area will become the location of the new septic system. This will be a very small system designed for a one bedroom home.

Extensive testing had been done to locate potential suitable areas for location of a septic system. The area between the house and the road had ledge within the 1 foot of the surface, thus eliminating any move of the system further away from the water's edge.

The proposal also includes an increase to the footprint of the house on the pond side of the foundation, as well as inclusion of a ditch to capture and infuse any rain runoff from the roof into the ground. The deck of the proposed building was also proposed to increase in size over the current deck size, requiring the removal of 2 trees with diameter at breast height (dbh) over 12" as it would be closer to the edge of the pond. A commission member suggested that perhaps the engineer speak with the owner about locating the deck off to the side of the house rather than between the house and the pond. Same view, easier build, no loss of trees on a fragile slope.

It was noted that the plan showed siltation barriers at the edge of the water. The Commission members suggested that these be brought closer to the actual footprint of the house so that they would prevent any debris from traveling down the very steep bank towards the pond. Members of the Commission also suggested that there be some net or other suitable arrangement in place to catch any debris that might be flung towards the pond during demolition. Demolition was most probably to be done with large machinery.

The Commission also noted that the "beach" at the shore of the pond had very obviously been created from fill placed in the pond and held in place with wooden barriers. It was unclear how long ago this beach had been created. There was little or no native vegetation on the flat area. The Commission suggested that any work on the beach or stairway to the beach be removed from the scope of this project and perhaps become its own project at a future date. The Commission also suggested that they might consider the area between the house and the water's edge to be a "no touch zone" in for future construction.

Site Visits Needed:

Cassiopeia Solar Farm - 0 & 1128 Main Street – There has been extensive rain since the last site visit and the reports and pictures from the project suggest that there are water management problems on the site.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Flashman

